

3. I. 85



Dear Joshua,

Alas, I have not followed the illustrious route tread by so many writers, scientists, generals, politicians etc. I do not keep, I have never kept a diary. Sometimes I regret it. Of course I remember the 1946 Cold Spring Harbor Symposium (it was my first visit to the States). In fact the only ^{important} scientific event, the most spectacular, was the announcement of the sexuality of Escherichia coli. The transmission of characters from bacteria to bacteria was of course well known: the "transforming principle". But that bacteria were able to copulate had, to my mind, never been foreseen.

~~The fact is~~ Somebody - maybe I - raised the objection that symbiosis between two different bacteria could explain your data. But you masterfully eliminated this hypothesis.

Any how, the fact, bacterial sexuality, was, in itself interesting for those in love with bacteria, but I wonder if any one, except you perhaps, had realized that the discovery

A. L. Wolf
Institut Pasteur
PARIS (XVII)

of medical cooperation would allow the birth
and ~~explosion~~ ^{explosion} blooming of molecular biology and genetics
during the next ten years. An explosive, unpredictable
blooming.

This is all I can say.

With kind regards

Andri Lwoff

P.S. You may use this letter as you wish.
but, please correct the mistakes
concerning ~~to~~ my English.

P.S. your letter dated June 84 was received
January 2d. 1985. hence the late answer.